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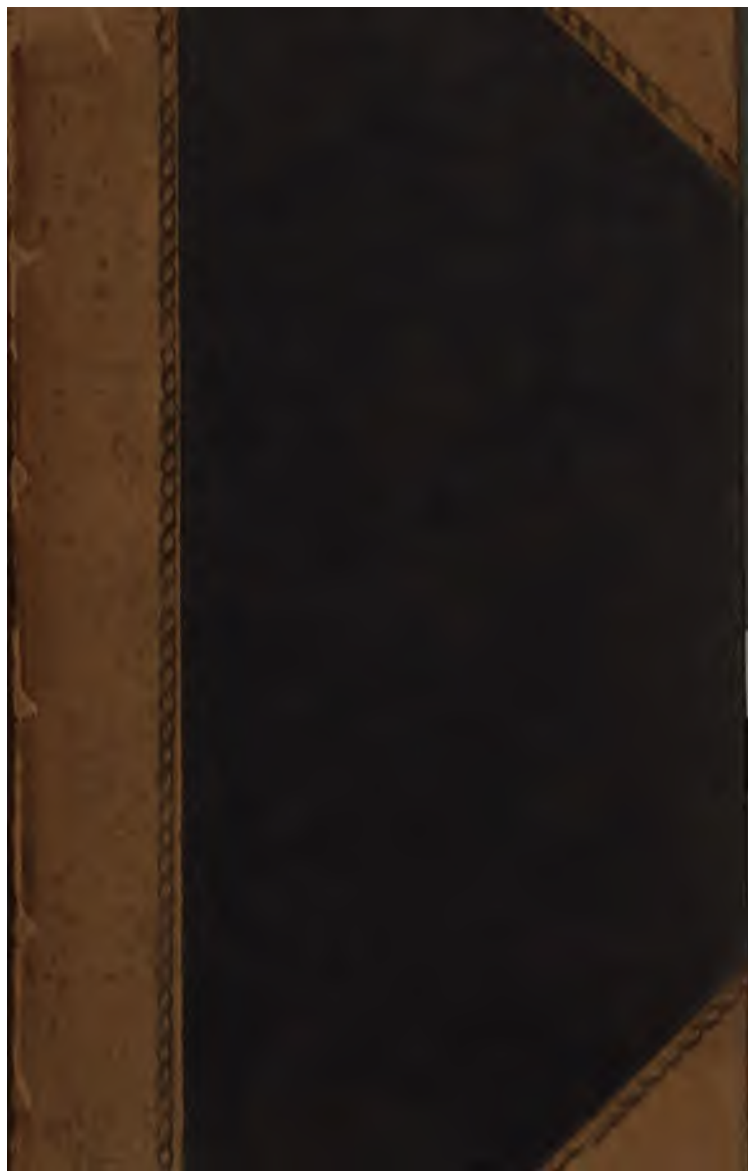
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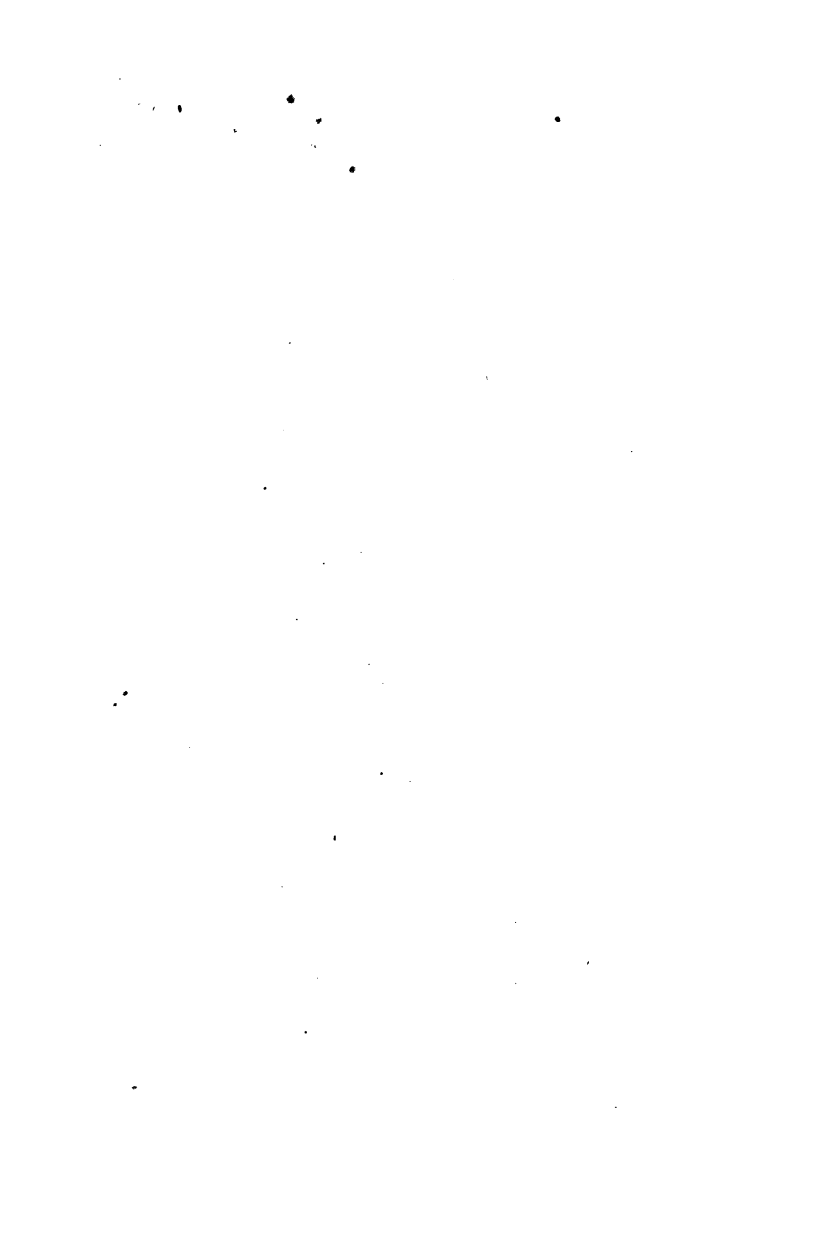
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88.

An EASIE and SAFE  
**M E T H O D**  
For CURING the  
**King's Evil.**

With several Observations of Diet, Air,  
&c. which may be of Use and Service to  
People afflicted with that Dittemper.

To which is added, a *Specimen of Success*,  
in a faithful Relation of many extraordina-  
ry Cures, *Viz.* (Strumous Ulcers, Sore Eyes,  
and Scrophulous Consumptions) on Men,  
Women, and Children.

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**In a Letter to a Friend.**

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The Ninth Edition.

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By **WILLIAM VICKERS, M. A.**

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*The Lord hath created Medicines out of the Earth,  
and he that is wise will not abhor them; and  
hath given Men Power and Skill, that he might  
be honour'd in his marvellous Works. Eccles.  
xxxviii. 4, 6.*

*Existimo Deum perfectè & sufficienter in Sim-  
plicibus composuisse completa morborum  
quorumcunque remedia. — Felix ille qui  
Simplicibus tuto atque prompte novit tolle-  
re & conculcare morbos. Helmont.*

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10. 65





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An EASIE and SAFE  
**M E T O D**  
 F O R  
**C U R I N G**  
 T H E  
**King's Evil, &c.**

*S I R,*  
**I**N Compliance with your late Rêquest, I  
 have sent you a short Account of my Me-  
 thod for curing the *King's Evil*: A Distem-  
 per, you know, I was from my Infancy  
 extremely afflicted withal; which continued  
 many Years on me, with that  
 Violence, that all Hopes of Cure  
 were given over by my Friends  
 and Self. The Distemper had seiz'd upon both  
 my Arms, upon my Right Hand, the Fore-  
 Finger of my Left, and also upon both my  
 Feet,

*The Author's  
 Condition.*

Feet, to such a Degree, that several Surgeons were of Opinion, that both Hands and Feet must be cut off. The Humour likewise fell with that Severity on both Eyes, that the Sight of each was judged irrecoverably lost. In fine, my whole Body became so extremely Weak and Feeble, with continual Runnings in so many Places, that for many Years I could neither go nor stand without Crutches. In this miserable Condition, (without any Hopes or Prospect of Relief) I lived many Years, until it pleased God to direct me to the Knowledge of those Means, the extraordinary Effects whereof as much exceeded mine and all other Peoples Expectations, as the Benefit reaped did my Merits; by the Use whereof, God be praised, in a very few Months, I became perfectly Sound and Well. It's now more than twenty Years since I was healed, enjoying as good Health and Sight as most People do, without any Fear or Apprehensions of a Relapse, being able to endure the coldest Weather, to read until Midnight, and to walk as much Ground, every Day, as the Generality of People do, without suffering any Prejudice thereby. I once thought (as most People do) that the *King's Evil*, especially in such a high Degree as I had it, was incurable; and I had Reason to believe it, after many Years Endeavours had been spent for a Cure to so little Purpose, concluding, that when the Endeavours of many able and skilful Physicians had all along proved ineffectual, there remain'd nothing more to be done. As my sad Condition made me a diligent Enquirer after all Sorts of Remedies; so I never declined the Use of any Means, which might give me the least Hopes

Hopes or Prospect of Success. I was stroked twice by King *Charles II.* and thrice by King *James II.* it's incredible, to tell the great Quantities of *Purges, Vomits, Diet-drinks, Alkalious Medicines, Lime-waters, Millipedes, Rue-Whitlow-grass,* and many other Things, not excepting *Mercurial* and *Antimonial* Remedies, which I have taken in my Time; but nothing avail'd, until it pleas'd God, by a wonderful Providence, to direct me to the Knowledge of this *Specifick*, which exceeded all my Hopes and Expectations.

And because some have very high Thoughts of the two last-named Medicines, *viz. Mercurial* and *Antimonial*, it may not be improper to acquaint you that I made several Trials thereof, but never reaped the least Benefit or Advantage from the Use of either: I could perceive, indeed, this Difference, that each Kind acted with more or less Violence, according as they were impregnated with a greater or less Quantity of corrosive *Salts*; but in my Opinion, the mildest of them is too strong and virulent for Persons afflicted with this Disease: At the best, I never found their Efficacy one Jot beyond what choice *Rhubarb* and *Sene* skilfully exhibited would perform: Rather the latter, according to my own Experience, answered the End and Design of Evacuation with much more Safety and Advantage. In one Particular I was always very happy, to reject a *Salivation*, a Remedy certainly worse than the Disease. For where it does not destroy Life, it entails so dismal a Train of Miseries, as a Man had better be

*Vid. Dr. Mor-*  
*ton of Con-*  
*sumptions,*  
p. 46.

buried alive than suffer. For my Part, I should ever esteem that Man the best Physician who

*Reflections upon Learning,* attends to all future Consequences; who, (as a certain Author saith) does not heal one Disease by procuring a worse, but restores  
p. 222.

such a Life as a Man can afterwards enjoy with Ease and Safety: Perhaps Craftsmen may not like these Reflections: but herein I act the Part of a Friend, which a wise Man

*Eccles. 6. 16.* accounts a very great Blessing; *A faithful Friend is the Medicine of Life, and he that fears the Lord shall find him.*

Now in order to give you some Account of this Cure on my self; it providentially came into my Mind, to make Experiment of one single Remedy, believing, that Simplicity of *Medicine* might be as effectual, as that of *Diet*. The Use whereof, first of all, I begun internally, with five or six Grains, Morning and Evening, in a Glass of Spring Water; and for external Application, I us'd an *Ointment* and *Cerecloth*, made with the same Remedy. This Method I continued some time; but afterwards with much greater Advantage, I infus'd a certain Quantity of this *Specifick Remedy* in a Gallon of Spring-water, which, when it was fine and clear, became my constant Drink, absolutely abstaining from all other Liquors, except a

*Its Effects.* Glass of Wine now and then, at Meals. By that time I had drunk

of this *Specifick Water* 18 or 20 Days, I perceiv'd my Sores to run with a much greater Flux of *Matter* than ever I knew them do before. Also several

several foul and rotten Bones, in several Joints, came forth, without any Pain or Trouble. And likewise some hard and unulcerated Swellings asswaged, and went away with the like Ease. My Strength also increased considerably, and my usual Pains (upon any sudden Change of Weather) ceased, with such a visible Alteration throughout my whole Constitution, that if I may so express it, I thought my self, in a Manner, new created. Two Things I observed very strange and unaccountable: The First was, That where-  
*Two remarkable Symptoms.*  
 as my Sores, for the first Month or six Weeks, ran so excessively, that one would have thought it impossible to subsist under so great a Consumption; yet my Strength increased the more; and by how much the more plentifully the Humour spent it self this Way, by so much the more hearty and strong I perceiv'd my self to grow. The other Thing I observed, was, That my Urine, after some time taking of this *Specifick Remedy*, did become as thick and ropy, as tho' it had been blended with Whites of Eggs, or some such-like viscous Matter, which continu'd until all my Sores healed, as they did perfectly in about eight Months, or something less. During which Course, I never found the least Tendency or Disposition unto Sicknes, or any other Inconveniency whatsoever attend the Use of these Means, but such a Difference for Ease, that there was no Comparison between this Method of Cure, and those I had been formerly treated withal; so easie and pleasant was the Operation, and withal so efficacious,

To give you a rational Account, how this *Specifick* Remedy should effect my Cure, after such an easie and uncommon Evacuation; is, I confess, beyond my *Philosophy*. The Learned Dr. *Willis* hath, in his *Way*, accounted for the secret and hidden Operations of Medicines upon Human Bodies, but I find no Intimation in his Writings, nor in any other Author, of any such Operation as mine produced; how Nature disposeth Remedies to effect particular Cures, is in my Opinion no easie Matter to determine, since we are not able to form an adequate Judgment of Things so remote from our Senses: And therefore till such time as I am able to talk otherwise than in the vulgar Cant of *Thinning*, *Rarifying*, and *Attenuating* those *Stagnating*, *Coagulated Juices*, I will be silent of those Matters; and shall only observe, that in the general I think it may from hence be concluded, that this Disease may be led, but not driven; and that the gentlest Methods in any Man's Hands, will be always likely to prove the most successful. Men may salivate and purge their Guts out, and not move it; and yet there may be some Simples and Methods of *Diet*, which will effectually remove it, with infinite less Trouble and Vexation, than what People commonly undergo in these Cases. I can truly affirm, from my own Experience, the greater Violence I was treated withal by others, by so much the worse it fared with me. The same, I very well remember, was the usual Complaint of all my Fellow-Sufferers, whereof I had a great Acquaintance, who are long since expired, much the sooner, I fear, for that very *Reason*.

The usual Practice in curing the *King's Evil*, I have observ'd to run in a Manner chiefly upon Evacuation, with the Use of the Decoction of the Woods, and some other *Simples*; which Medicines are so generally known and fix'd, that if 500 People were afflicted with this Distemper, and as many Physicians consulted, a Man might not only pretty nearly guess, what each of them would prescribe; but also, what Effects each Person might expect from their Prescriptions. But now, as this my *Specifick* Remedy is new and uncommon, so likewise are its Operations different from any Medicines I ever yet knew or heard of. For, no sooner is this Remedy incorporated with the whole Mass of Blood, but the scrophulous Ulcers open like so many Flood-Gates, pouring out the Humour with a mighty Current, which, to every Body's thinking, should rather waste and consume the Body, than encrease its Strength and Vigour. But on the contrary, by how much the more plentifully the Humour spends it self this way, by so much the more hearty and strong do People grow: Experience fairly intimating this to be the most proper Means to perform a Cure; because this viscous and stubborn Humour, which will not yield to other Evacuations, tho' never so strong, is hereby thrown out, the Way which Nature indicates to disburden her self. This pass'd for a Maxim with *Hippocrates*; *Aphor. 21.* *Those things (saith he) which are to be carried off, are to be drawn whither they most incline, through such Ways and Places, as are fittest for Conveyance and Expulsion.* And methinks, it should easily be allow'd, that to promote a regular



gular *Secretion* of the *Morbifick Matter* in those *Places* where *Nature* hath determin'd to empty her self, is the most rational and safest Method for eradicating this Disease, tho' sometimes with some People this *Specifick Remedy* will precipitate this Humour, and bring it away by *Urine* also. Which, as the Divine *Hippocrates* hath elsewhere observ'd, is a good Sign of a succeeding Cure.

*Nat. Hist.* Wise Physicians (saith the Lord Bacon) should with all Diligence enquire what Remedies Nature yieldeth; having extreme

subtle Parts, without any *Mordication* or *Acrimony*; for they (saith he) undermine that which is hard, they open that which is stopp'd and shut, and they expel that which is offensive gently, without too much *Perturbation*. And the ingenious Dr. Tho. Fuller saith, that

*Phar. Extemp.* *Specificks* are found, by Experience, to have Respect to one Part more than another; that a Medicine may strike a particular Impression on one Humour, and not touch another: Whereof the Dr. gives us many Instances. And

therefore (saith the Doctor in another Place) tho' the fashionable Opinion of late Years runs, that there is no such

thing at Electives, respecting one Humour more than another, yet irrefragable Experience proves otherwise to the very Senses. 'Some People have denied the Efficacy of *Specificks* operating on particular Humours, (saith Monsieur Lemery) but

*Course of Chy-* 'by a small Observation of the  
*mistry*, p. 639. 'Practice of Physick, one may  
'soon

' soon remark their different Effects. And tho' the  
 ' Practice of Physick did not prove it, yet the  
 ' Rules of Chymistry plainly demonstrate the  
 ' Matter of Fact. For seeing the different Na-  
 ' ture of Substances upon which we make Expe-  
 ' riments, require different Dissolvents, why  
 ' may not the same Effects be wrought in the  
 ' Humours of the Body, which are of a different  
 ' Nature? And indeed the Suffrages of all our  
 eminent Physicians and Naturalists do agree,  
 that Remedies might be found to act more direct-  
 ly upon some particular Parts and Humours,  
 than upon others: Which, as the

Advance-  
 ment of Lear-  
 ning, p. 196.

*Lord Bacon truly observes, is the Cause why Empericks and old Wo-  
 men are more happy, many times,  
 in their Cures, than Learned Physicians; because  
 they are faithful and steady to those approv'd Medi-  
 cines, which they have found out for particular Dis-  
 eases; and therefore, saith he, it would be Mat-  
 ter of good Consequence, if some Physicians of  
 Note for Learning and Practice, would compile  
 a Work of Probations and experimental Medicines  
 for the Cure of particular Diseases: No doubt, saith  
 the same Author, if Physicians, letting Generali-  
 ties go for a while, and suspending their Assent  
 thereto, would make their Approaches to Nature,  
 they might become Masters of that Art whereof the  
 Poet speaks.*

Et quoniam variant morbi variabimus artes,  
 Mille mali Species mille salutis erunt. *Ovid.*

But at present so far otherwise is the State of  
 Physick, that in the common Practice, those Re-  
 medies, which by a Specificall Propriety respect the

Cur

Cures of particular Diseases, are very few; nay, in a Manner, quite lost. Some Men of late Years deducing the Causes of all Distempers from those Two giddy Notions of *Alkaly* and *Acid*, have put their Indications of curing all Distempers upon that Foot, tho' at the same Time, they are wholly ignorant what *Acid* produceth any Disease, or what *Alkaly* removes it. *Pliny* says, we are ignorant of what we live upon; but in my Opinion, we are less acquainted with that which makes us sick. Daily Experience convinceth us, that our Constitutions are injur'd by a thousand Things which are neither *Acid* nor *Alkaly*, nor anything like them: And, on the contrary, that many Distempers are cur'd by those very Things, which according to our Reason and Way of Thinking, are directly opposite to the very Nature of the Disease: We see

*Dr. Fuller.* Contraries often prove Remedies to  
*Med. Gym-* one another in the Juices, and Poi-  
*nastica.* sons become beneficial, when oppos'd  
 to certain Humours; the World has,

lately, had full Evidence of the Good Effects of an intense Cold, equally apply'd to all the Parts of the Body, at once; which Method of Curing, some Years ago, was thought very extravagant, and certainly destructive.

From the extraordinary Effects of this *Specifick Remedy*, one might easily raise a new *Hypothesis* for this Distemper, but after all the Pains one should lay out upon it, it might perhaps be as untrue and as unserviceable as any before. Our Knowledge being founded on our Senses, and our Senses unable to discover the minute Instruments that Nature employs in her ordinary Operations

rations. It's impossible for us to trace the true Reason or Cause of those Things of whose Reality we cannot form any true *Idea*; one of the best Remedies to cure a confirmed *Leprosie* which (Authors tell us) cometh of *Salt Acid Humours*, is Immersion in the main Ocean; which according to some Mens Notions should be a very unlikely Means to remove such a Distemper; and therefore those Fictions of curing *Acid Humours*, by effectual \* *Alkalious Medicines*, may serve well enough for a Time to amuse and deceive the Vulgar, easily seduced with such Novelties, but Men of Learning and Enquiry know very well, that there are no such Principles to be found in the Parts and Humours of *Animals*, until they have passed the Fire: And what strange Alterations and Impressions are made by that Element, is obvious to all People experienced in *Chymistry*. It's an easie Matter to imagine this or that Humour to be the Cause of any

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\* *This alone (speaking of Acids and Alkalies) will make us sufficiently sensible how true an Explication of Nature we are to expect from those Men, who upon the Doctrine of Acids and Alkalies form Theories, not only in Chymistry, but also in Physick, when they don't so much as understand the Terms they make use of — Dr. Friend's Chymical Lectures, p. 15. The Champions for Alkalious Medicines ignominiously reproach Acids as the Cause of all the Miseries that disquiet the Healths of Men, whilst the Defenders of Acids load Alkalies with the same Ignominy. But the Jest is, neither of these Combitants have as yet proved the real Existence of either of these Principles in the Blood. Dr. Paxton, Specimen Physico, Medicum, p. 171.*

particular Distemper, and to form Methods of Cure upon such Conjectures, but Nature, who best knoweth her own Wants and Grievances, is not easily managed by such Devices. She will be served in her own Way, and needeth no other Assistance for her Preservation against all Assaults, but a prudent Application of those Remedies she hath every where provided, suitable to each Complaint. If Providence had not thus order'd Things, what must become of the first Inhabitants of the World, and of those People now living in many Places, who have no Physicians, *Philosophy* nor *Medicines*, to heal their *Sicknesses*, but such as are vulgarly known among themselves, and approved by their own Experience and Observation? In antient *Babylon*, great and populous as it was, no Physicians were known, nor other Methods for curing Distempers, than those gain'd by every Man's own Experience and Enquiry, *Artem experientia fecit, exemplo monstrante viam.* Manilius.

For my Part, I shall never trouble my self much about the Cause, what it is, or from whence it comes, so long as God hath enabled me to remove it; and I very well remember, that when I applied my self to others for Cure, they of all Men had the worst Success in their Practice upon me, who professed to have a clear and perfect Knowledge of its Origin; their fine Reasonings, and nice Speculations, after a long Course of painful Experiments, ended only in grievous Disappointments. Diseases are of that hidden and abstruse Nature, working out their Effects by *secret Ways*, and so remote from human View, that in most Cases the learned Physicians have

have not been able to determine the immediate Cause with that Certainty, but that others have as strenuously opposed it: In this Disease, particularly, I believe I could cite twenty different Opinions, out of Authors, each of them peremptorily asserting the Cause and the Cure from their own Hypotheses. And I once knew a young Gentleman with a Swelling under his right Jaw, who \* ended his Life before his Physicians could end the Dispute among themselves; whether the Tumour was Scrophulous or not.

True it is, generally speaking, no Disease hath more apparent Indications than this; even the Complexion is often a sufficient Sign; but this Rule, like other Generals, is not always without Exception. I knew a young Lady much afflicted with Pains in her Head, attended with great Dimness of Sight, which I suspected to be the *King's Evil*, but her Relations slighted my Judgment: When she was dead, her Head being open'd, it appear'd that her Brain was in a manner consumed, and the inward Table of her Skull *carious*. I saw likewise a Child open'd about 12 or 13 Years of Age, whose Liver and Lights were highly Scrophulous, and yet when living she had no outward Signs of any such Distemper. A Gentleman sent two of his Sons out of Ireland to *Westminster School*, they seem'd both healthful Youths; but soon after the Elder of them grew indispos'd with a Cough, and died *tabid*; his Body being open'd, his Lungs were

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\* *Neque enim si veritas esset inventu facilis tot ac tanti viri in ea quarenda occupati, in tam contrarias sentias fuissent unquam dispersiti. Paracelsus.*

discover'd full of *Siruma*. Dr. *Walter Needham*, in one of his Lectures at *Surgeons-Hall*, declares, " He had seen a strumous Swelling hanging at the Cone of the Heart, the Weight of two Ounces.

The Beginnings of these Scrophulous Tumours, I have observ'd, are so very small, that their first Appearances are scarcely discernable, but by Degrees (some sooner, others later) they will encrease to a very large Size, and become as hard as Flints, whereof I have seen several Instances; a Process of Nature widely different from those Notions and Accounts hitherto given us of this Distemper. And whereas it's generally thought that Children have this Distemper only by Inheritance: I have known many afflicted therewith, where no *Hereditary Contagion* could reasonably be suppos'd. And many grown Persons do acquire the *King's Evil* by external Accidents, viz. *Blows, Bruises, Compressions, Wrenches of the Hip, Knee, Ankle*, and many other Joints, in whom there was never any such Thing as a *Corrosive Acidity* in the first Digestion, nor any Thing like it elsewhere. I have seen a Woman with two of these strumous Swellings, the Bigness of a Turkey's Egg, as hard as Flints, under her Jaws, who solemnly protested to me, that both these Swellings came in a Night's Time, that when she went to Bed, she was as free of them as any Woman living. In my Observations I have seen more People subject to this Distemper after the Small Pox, than before; and generally speaking, by how much the more healthful and active Children are, the more liable to the *King's Evil*. Whatever therefore  
some

Some Men may boast of their extraordinary Skill in occult Causes, or as one of them saith, that, "*The first Step towards the Removal of a Disease, is to know its Origen.*" Their Imaginations hitherto are wild Visions, like the Philosopher's Stone, or the universal Medicine, which will certainly cure all that have it. "*Parent-nature,*" saith Dr. Sydenham, *accomplishes*  
 " *the Generation of all things, which* P. 61.  
 " *at any time she brings to light from*  
 " *the Bosom of Causes, by most certain Rules, only*  
 " *known to her self, and hides their Essence, Quid-*  
 " *dities, and constitutive Differences, in the greatest*  
 " *Obscurity.* And therefore, saith he, *The Cure of*  
*most Diseases are not performed by the Knowledge*  
*of their occult Causes, but by a proper Method ap-*  
*proved by Experience. Sola Remedia sanant,* said  
 good old Celsus: One good Remedy is preferable  
 to all the Hypotheses and plausible Conjectures in  
 the World. And therefore, what Sir Robert Ta-  
 bor said to the French King's Physicians, when,  
 in a scoffing manner, they demanded of him  
 what was the Cause of a Fever, I think was very  
 ingenious, and more to the Purpose than any  
 other Answer whatsoever: *A Fever* (quoth he)  
*is a Disease you do not know how to cure, but I do.*  
 Provided we know Peoples Tempers and Consti-  
 tutions, and those good and bad Symptoms pec-  
 uliarly incident to each Distemper, as also which  
 of the *Non-Naturals* do us good, and which of  
 them do injury, and have but proper Remedies  
 to apply, we need not, I think, busie our selves  
 much about *secret Causes*. However, thus much  
 is certain, that this Distemper is not curable in  
 a natural way, by any other Means but by in-  
 ward



ward Applications, whether *Specificks* or otherwise; there is no Possibility of destroying its Effects, but by removing the Cause; neither *Topical Medicines* nor *Manual Operations* will avail to any lasting Purpose, if the Humour be not thoroughly eradicated. Whoever knoweth any thing of the antient Practice of *Physick* and *Surgery*, cannot but be sensible, that in all such Cases their first and chiefest Applications were *Vulnerary Potions*; the ingenious *Paul Barbette* declares this Distemper only curable by Internals; and the Learned *Bartholine* (tho' a Surgeon) is of the same Mind. '*Serena* (saith *Cornelius Celsus*) 'have always given much Trouble 'and Vexation to Surgeons, because, saith he, 'after the best Care and Methods have been applied for their Extirpation, they are found to 'gain a new Birth. In my self, and likewise on divers other Persons, I have known these Tumours laid open by Incision, and the Glands quite consumed with *Escaroticks*. And yet afterwards the same Humour hath broken out a fresh with greater Violence; which plainly sheweth, there is no conquering this Adversary without the inward Applications of some special Medicine, able to extinguish the Cause (whatever it be) throughout the whole Body. I have known some People afflicted with this Distemper, whose Plaisters would not stick, but drop off after their taking this *Specifick* Liquor and Powder for some time; and others, where the Disease hath violently seized their Eyes, their Inflammations and Soreness to decrease by its inward Application only, which is a plain Confirmation of the Truth of this Maxim, common among  
Phy.

Physicians; *Sublata causa tollitur effectus.*

After I had fully experienced the Excellency and Usefulness of this Medicine, in my own Case, I thought my self obliged, in Point of Charity, to make it publick; that others, if they pleas'd, might reap the same Benefit by it, as, blessed be God, I had done. And tho' I do not pretend to make any new Discoveries concerning the Cause or Production of this Disease; yet, I conceive, I have some Reason to esteem my self capable of helping those who at any time shall desire my Assistance. For, besides the Knowledge (which God hath blessed me with) of this *Specifick Remedy*, I have likewise gain'd some other Skill from my past Sufferings, which I reckon may be very conducive to the Cure of this Distemper. I hope, for Instance, I am able to give a satisfactory Account, what Tumours are scrophulous, and what are not. I know as well the Temper and Constitution of People afflicted with the *Evil*, as I did my own, and can easily tell when they will suffer Pain, and when not; when their Sores will run little or much; at what Seasons their Swellings will rise or fall; and when they will break; and the like. Of these Things I have given a satisfactory Account, as divers People will bear me Witness. Physick (as a certain Author hath long since observed)

Montague's  
Essays.

doth always profess to have Experience for the Proof of its Operations. And it was *Plato's* Opinion, that in order to be a true Physician, a Man should first suffer all those Diseases he pretended to cure, and pass thro' all those Accidents and Circumstances he was to judge of in others.

This

servations, to direct Men in their Methods of curing Diseases. *Change of Seasons are the most effectual Causes of Diseases, and so are the Alterations of Cold and Heat in those Seasons, and other Things proportionable.* If distemper'd People observed these Things, they would not blame their Physicians in many things, when the Cause is purely owing to the Weather. Neither would others upon every little Indisposition, subject themselves to Physick and Phlebotomy, when a contrary Position of the *Air* would set them right. The ingenious Dr. *Wainewright*, in his

Page 65. Book of *Non-naturals*, hath clearly demonstrated what great Alterations are made in our Bodies, according to the various Changes of the *Air*; affirming that from such Notices, better Indications may be taken both for the Prevention and Cure of most Diseases, than from any other Source whatsoever.

*The Animal Oeconomy*, (saith a late ingenious Author, with great Truth) is it self a considerable Part of Natural Philosophy, and our Bodies are so strongly influenced by Va-

riety of Diets, and so many other Things without, that, indeed, the whole Study of Nature seems to be useful to him that would understand it. Herodotus, an antient Author, tells us, that in Egypt Physicians were obliged to apply themselves to the Study and Improvement of but some one Disease.

Lib. 2. Sect. Every Physician, saith he, hath one  
82. Disease for his Province, and no more, &c. The Design whereof,

doubtless, was very good, and of great Use to the Republick of Physick: Because hereby Physicians

ficians acquir'd a more certain and perfect Knowledge of the Nature and Disposition of particular Diseases, and of things hurtful and beneficial in each Distemper; and consequently, were better able to fence against all ill Accidents and Revolutions arising from the various Changes of the Weather, or improper Diets, and many evil Habits, whereto each Disease bath a direct Tendency. The Works of those very great Men, Dr. Sydenham and Dr R. Morton, are undeniable Instances of the Advantages the World might enjoy from the Physician's more especial Application of his Thoughts and Studies to the Nature and Cure of some particular Disease. The noble Improvements they arriv'd at in this way, the one with Respect to *Fevers*, and the other to *Consumptions*, make one justly wonder, among so many Ingenious and Learned Men of that Profession, there have been so few who have attempted to follow their Steps in other Cases.

The Divine *Hippocrates* formed his Practice from Experience and Observation on particular Diseases. *To understand the Art of Physick, is to know thoroughly the peculiar Constitution of every Season, what there is generally good and bad in each Man's Distemper, the State and Crisis of every Disease, to whom, when and how, Victuals must be given.*

*He that knows and makes a right Use of these things, cannot be mistaken* 3 Epid. 3:  
in the Art of Healing. To the p. 156.

same Purpose speaketh *Cornelius Celsus*; Neither ought the Physician to Aphor. 13.  
be ignorant of the Nature and Constitution p. 236.

of the Patient, whether his Body be moist or dry, whether strong or infirm, whether seldom

*Some or often sick, &c.* Of these Particulars, I take all possible Care to inform my self, from every Person with whom I am concern'd, and should be glad, if Persons labouring under this Distemper, living in remote Parts, when they write to me, would send an exact Account of their particular Habits of Body, in what Parts they are afflicted, and how long.

As I judged these no improper Qualifications for one who undertook to help others, so, Blessed be God, I have met with an answerable Success.

*The same Effects generally common to all other People.* As I treat others as I did my self, so I find the very same common Effects. Their Sores run with the same Flux of Matter upon taking this *Specifick Remedy* as mine did.

Those painful Operations of *Cutting, Canterizing*, and the like, (which one of the greatest Surgeons we have had long since declar'd, were more fatal and dangerous than the Disease it self) are by the inward Application of this *Specifick Remedy* rendred useless and unnecessary. And I reckon it a great Happiness, that in this Case I can exfoliate foul and carious Bones, without inflicting those Torments attending *manual Operations*. I have a Box of Scales and foul Bones, the largest that ever were seen, driven out by this Anti-Strumatick Liquor. Their *Urine* likewise I have frequently observed as thick and ropy as my own used to be; and tho' they were never so Weak and Lame, yet I always find their Strength daily increasing, as mine did. It's a common Complaint among those who have taken Diet-Drinks, made of *Gniacum, Sarsaparilla, Mizerion*, and the like, for  
any

any Time; that these Remedies spoil their Stomachs, and burn them up with Feverish Heats: But this *Specifick* hath quite contrary Effects, wonderfully invigorating the *Spirits*, preserving the Appetite, and restoring it when lost; and is of that *mundifying, healing, drying Quality*, that some inveterate Ulcers have been cured therewith by an outward Application only. For fore, weak, and enflamed Eyes, or where the Sight is obstructed with *Mists, Clouds, Films, and Pearls*, there is no better Ophthalmick in the World. Neither did I ever know this Humour break out afresh upon any Person cur'd by this Method, no more than it hath done with me above these Twenty Years past; the Truth whereof I can make appear by a Cloud of Witnesses, from their own Experience. Neither do I encourage People to enter upon this Method of Cure, if I have not some Hopes and Prospect of Success.

So far as I am able to judge from the large Experience I have had, first on my self, and now upon others, one of the greatest Difficulties in making a compleat Cure of this Distemper in most People, with this Method, is Length of Time, which many have not Patience to submit unto, not considering the Stubbornness of this Disease, above all others; that Nature being brought very low, and worn out, in a manner, with a long Duration of the Illness, together with the emaciating Methods in common Use, cannot so soon accomplish the Concoction and Despumation of the Morbifick Matter, as they could wish: It is in this Disease, as in all other *Chronical Distempers*, the Cause is passed into

a Habit, and is become, as it were, a second Nature. And therefore it cannot be expected, that some small and short Alteration superinduced upon the Blood and Humours by any sort of Remedy or Diet can perfect a Cure : Since the whole Habit of Body must be changed, and the whole Man (if I may so express it) must be as it were new created. People not considering these things, are easily seduced to try other Medicines, but with so little Advantage, that they oftentimes run themselves into greater Evils; according to that Observation, long since deliver'd by the Lord Bacon, *That as*

*Natur. Hist. Variety of Medicines is the Offspring of Ignorance, so many Medicines have caused few Cures.* When

Men talk of variety of Medicines and Methods of Cure ; ' As necessary to answer all those several Symptoms and Indications, which this or any other Distemper may require, tho' their Arguments be plausible, and perhaps sometimes true, viz. When there is a different Cause for those various Symptoms : Yet, as it often cometh to pass, that different Symptoms proceed from one and the same Cause, so whatever single Remedy will effectually remove that Cause, will as certainly remove the several Symptoms or Effects thereof. Few Diseases for Instance shew themselves in a greater variety of Forms, or are attended with more various Symptoms than *Fevers* and *Agues* ; and yet the *Cortex* prudently exhibited, will take off all those different Symptoms without the Assistance of any other Applications. So also in *Venerèal Cases*, Patients have many different

Com.

Complaints, which seem to indicate different Applications; but yet it's evident in Fact, that upon the sole use of *Mercurials* skilfully administered, all those numerous Grievances come to an end. By Parity of Reason therefore, altho' nothing more common than *Fevers*, *Consumptions*, *violent Pains*, &c. among Persons afflicted with the *King's Evil*; yet as these are not Distempers arising from different Causes, but the real Effects of one and the same, what need is there of multiplying Remedies for the Removal thereof? I have seen Multitudes of People (Young and Old) afflicted with this Distemper, but could never observe any remarkable Difference of Temper or Constitution, or any considerable Variation of Symptoms among them, otherwise than what the Disease naturally produceth in common: To these Observations I may add another of equal Truth, that the most authentick Evidences of a Man's curing this or any other Disease, are not sufficient to satisfy some People prepossess'd with Prejudices; so that if a Man were morally certain of curing any one Distemper, yet he would find it a difficult Point to convince some, tho' he produc'd an hundred Instances of his Success. And the Reason may be this, because Physicians, and those depending on them, have in all Places so bitterly run down Persons and Things exclusive of their own Knowledge and Practice, that People think there's no *Balm in Gilead* but what's in their Hands. And yet Physicians *Hist of Phys.* have acknowledg'd that the Art of pag. 4.  
Healing was originally derived from  
such Experiments as were not all made by Physicians.



ficians \*. Nay sometimes (say they) the Fowls of the Air, and the Beasts of the Field, have by the Exercise of their natural Instincts directed considering Men to such Medicines, as without such Indications perhaps their Reason and Skill would never have brought to light.

*Dictamnnum genitrix cretæa carpit ab ida  
Puberibus caulem foliis & flore comantem  
Purpureo, non illa feris incognita capris  
Gramina cum tergo volucres hasere sagitta.*

Virg. Æn. 12.

My Pretensions are only thus, that whereas I had this Distemper in a very high Degree, and have, with God's Blessing, been my self cured by this Remedy, and many others have received undeniable Benefit thereby; I shall honestly apply the same Means to any Person, leaving the Success to Almighty God. With this farther Testimony, for all Peoples Satisfaction, that if this *Specific Remedy* should not cure them, it will certainly do them no Hurt. Not one of those

\* If any Credit may be given to Pliny, we shall have no reason to boast of the Invention of Physick, two great Operations in that Art having been owing to two inconsiderable Creatures, viz. Bleeding and Purging; the first to Hippopotamus, a River-Horse; the latter to Ibis, a small Bird in Egypt.

The Natives (saith Monsieur Pomet) found out the Virtue of the Balsam Capivi, by means of certain Hogs in those Parts, who presently (when they were wounded) would strike their Teeth against the Trunks of these Trees, from whence the Balsam would flow out into their Wounds; and this they would continue till they were perfectly well. History of Drugs, p. 208.

many

many Hundreds that have taken of it, having ever complain'd of the least Injury attending its Use.

Thus, Sir, I have given you a short Account of what I have done for my self with this *Specifick Remedy*, and likewise how successful others have found it. I confess, when I resolv'd, first of all, to make it known unto the World, I found some Difficulty to perswade my self to yield to its Publication in the Prints; but as I saw that was in a manner necessary, so I have this Comfort and Satisfaction against all Censures and Reflections upon that Account; that, by so doing, I have had the Opportunity of curing some Scores of People, who might have rotted alive, had it not been for those Advertisements. Some, I am sure, who once thought me unworthy of their Notice, have by that Means sought my Assistance, and found it effectual. And tho' this way of publishing Medicines and Cures, is now esteem'd *Quackism*, yet by the History of Physick, it appears, if the Ancients could have had the same Convenience, they would have done the like: *For whosoever* Lib. 2. p. 6.  
*had gain'd any Experience on him-  
 self or others, saith Herodorus, made it publick.*  
 And again, it was the Custom, saith the same Author, *to carry their Sick and Diseased into the Markets, that all People, passing by, might give their Advice, and encourage others to try what themselves and others had, in the like Case, used with Success.* But whatever may be thought of this, surely a Design so compassionate, as to deliver Mankind from one of the greatest corporal Evils that can befall them, needs no Apology, nor Excuse; for this, I have the Sense of the in-  
 genic

genious Dr. *Wainewright*, in his Treatise of *Non-Naturals*. To attempt any thing, saith he, for the Improvement of useful Arts, especially, that of *Medicine*, which is of the greatest Benefit to Mankind, is a Debt which every capable Person owes to the Publick. The Honourable Esq; *Boyle*, the Reverend Mr. *John Ray*, and some others, tho' no profess'd Physicians or Surgeons, have by their Writings done great Service to both : Also Dr. *Wagstaffe*, a Divine of this City, and the Reverend Mr. *Mansel* of *Northamptonshire*, the one for *Physick*, and the other for *Surgery*, have given full Proof of their great Abilities and Success in each, not to mention several others of the Clergy in the Country, who to the great Comfort and Satisfaction of their poor indigent Neighbours practise both \*. Hereby it appears, that the Knowledge of either of these Sciences is not above the Sphere of Clergy-mens Capacities, as to *Internals*, nor beyond their Reach as to *Manual Operations*, as has been sillily objected. Therefore as I am not singular in this Undertaking, so I hope, no good Man will revile me upon this Account : And, as for others, it's to me no great Matter, what they say. Success surmounteth all Difficulties, and the bitterest Invectives that Ma-

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\* The Reverend Dr. Robert Sharrock, Prebend of Winchester, and Minister of Bishop's Waltham, Hampshire, was as Eminent for his Knowledge in Physick as in Divinity, and with a vulnerary Decoction he did effect many great Cures on inveterate Ulcers, one whereof my self was an Eye-witness to. And I formerly knew a Tradesman, living at Smithfield-Bars, who for many Years was extremely troubled with a Fistula in the Ano; cured by the Reverend Mr. Stanfeild.

lice or Envy can suggest, will, in the End, avail nothing, where the Efficacy of a Remedy becomes indisputable. I know, indeed, from my own Experience, that some are of that venomous Temper, that where Matters of Fact are as clear as the Sun at Noon-day, where no Provocation, nor the least Cause of Offence is given, yet they will not forbear poisoning the Minds of People with base and unworthy Insinuations. But I look upon such Efforts to proceed from some inward Convictions such Men have, that it's easier for them to attempt the supporting their own Credit and Esteem, by lessening that of others, than by any real Worth or Merit of their own: Such invidious Calumniators do not deserve Regard.

As I envy no Man's Learning, Titles or Abilities, so I take all possible Care to make no Man angry or uneasie at the Good God has enabled me to do; refusing all Patients so long as they are under the Care of others, whether Physicians or Surgeons, and should be glad to hear they meet with good Success elsewhere. Mr. Serjeant *Wiseman* is of Opinion, that most of those Diseases mentioned in his Chyrurgical Treatise, do participate of the *Evil*: I know not whether one might entirely subscribe to that great Man's Judgment in the Matter; but this, I believe, must be allowed, that, with us, very few Families are wholly clear of it; so that it's to be fear'd, there will be Work enough for all. And I have heard several old, able, and experienced Practitioners declare, that they never got any Credit by meddling with this Distemper: and therefore accounted it no real Injury to the

P

Practice, for any Person to free them from that Trouble.

Mr. Serjeant *Wiseman* saith,  
 Lib. 2. p. 239: that *the Contumaciousness of this Disease had not only eluded his best Care and Industry, but also some of the ablest Physicians and Surgeons in his Time.* And I can truly affirm, few People apply themselves to me, who have not undergone all those Physical and Chyrurgical Operations, applicable in this Disease twice or thrice over, without any manner of Advantage.

I know not what Reason some Authors have to alledge, that aged People are rarely troubled with this Distemper. I have known several upwards of *Fifty, Sixty, and Seventy Years* of Age break out in several Places, particularly a Woman whom I cured upwards of *Sixty*, who declared to me, that she had been always free from any such Complaint, till she was *Fifty Five*, or thereabout. It is a Disease which spareth neither Peer nor Peasant of any Age or Sex whatsoever. "*This Distemper, through Length of Time,*" as the Learned *Barbette, M. D.* and "*Mr. Serjeant Brown* have observ'd, becometh "*Cancerous.*" And I have known several of these Tumours in Womens Breasts, tho' small at first, degenerate into cancerous Ulcers. Some Authors affirm, the same Remedies which heal the one, will also cure the other.

But however, the Distemper is of that malignant and mischievous Nature, to our Bodies, that whoever can propose a safe and easie Method of curing or preventing it, one might expect should be look'd upon as an especial Benefactor to Mankind.

kind ; for where it doth not destroy Life, it often disableth People (the whole Course of their Lives) from enjoying themselves or others, with any Comfort or Satisfaction, as may be seen by many deplorable Instances, among both Sexes, groaning under the Torments of this crueiating Tyrant. So that where a Man's Services are manifest and indisputable, either in giving Freedom or Relief from so great an *Evil*, he might reasonably hope to merit the Good-Will and Encouragement of all Mankind. For my Part, if it were in my Power which to choose, I would much rather beg my Bread all the Days of my Life, with that Portion of Health I now enjoy, than endure my former Afflictions with the Wealth of the *Indies*. Health is so great a Blessing, that all other Pleasures of Honour and Fortune are vain, tasteless, and even dead without it : If therefore by any Means, we can attain this necessary Comfort of Life, it's no great Matter (I think) who the Persons are (next under God) of conveying this Blessing to us. Where the Means are safe, and warranted with unquestionable Proofs of Success, all other Exceptions are frivolous and trifling : And yet there are Thousands of *Naaman's* Opinion, who will choose to suffer any Evil, rather than be convinced that there can be so much Healing in the Waters of *Jordan*.

Sherburn-Lane, near the  
General Post-Office, in  
Lombard-street.

I am, Sir,

Yours.



A  
*Specimen of Success :*  
I N A  
**Faithful Relation**  
Of many Extraordinary  
**CURES.**

*Viz. Scrophulous Ulcers, Sore Eyes, and  
Consumptions, in Men, Women,  
and Children,*

Afflicted with the

**King's-Evil,**

---

**By WILLIAM VICKERS, M.A.**

---

*The best Testimonials of a Physician's Judgment and  
Success are his Cures. Cornelius Celsus.*

---

*London : Printed and Sold by S. Manship, at the Ship  
against the Royal-Exchange, Cornhill ; and A. Col-  
lins at the Black-Boy, against St. Dunstan's Church,  
in Fleetstreet, 1713.*





## A

## Specimen of Success, &amp;c.

*The CASE of Charles Welsh.*

**I**T pleased God in the Island of *Jersey*, after the *Small Pox* there, to afflict me in a grievous Manner with the *King's Evil* ; first, with a deep and large Ulcer in my Breast, then with two others on my right Arm ; after these followed five more on my left Shoulder ; and lastly, five others on my left Arm ; whereby I was depriv'd of the Use of both Arms, being also so extream weak and lame, that I could neither go nor help my self. I had all the Advice and Medicines that was there possible, particularly was under a Course of Salivation seven Weeks ; but these things having no Effect upon me, I was remov'd thence into *St. Thomas's Hospital*, where I continu'd several Months ; but not meeting with that Success in this Place neither, which many others have reaped ; and being discharged, I was by my Friends then brought to *Mr. Vickers*, a Clergy-man, in *Sherburn-lane* ; *November 26, 1706.* who, beyond his own, and all other People's Expectations, hath (God be praised) wrought

a perfect and compleat Cure on me, being now as sound and healthy as any other Person whatsoever. I lodge at a *Sho-maker's*, next Door to the *Cross-Keys Inn*, *Grace-Church-street*, where may be seen much more of this Cure than is here related, by

*Charles Welsh.*

S I R,

I Send this to acquaint you, that my Child, which was blind with the *King's Evil* of both Eyes 3 or 4 Months, is now, by God's Blessing, and those Medicines which you sent me, perfectly recover'd. I pray God to bless your Endeavours for the Benefit of others, as he hath done for mine, who am your most obliged Friend and Servant,

*John Trayhearne.*

*Stanstead, Feb.*

21. 1703.

**A** Caulker, living at *Ratcliff-Cross*, was troubl'd with many running Sores under his right Jaw, which his Surgeons judg'd to be the *King's Evil*. His Ulcers were large and deep, and with a little Pressure, Matter would issue forth in great Abundance. Nov. 23, 1708. he apply'd himself to me, and the following April himself and Wife came to me, in *John's Coffee-house* in *Smithins-Alley*, adjoyning to the *Royal Exchange*, and gave me publick Thanks for the good Service I had done him in curing his Face, which he then declared, had been found and well two Months before he came to wait on me.

**A** Young Man about 19 Years of Age, of a thin emaciated Constitution, much afflicted with the *Evil* in his left Elbow, wherein were four or five Holes, his Arm likewise very much wasted, with the continual long Running of those Sores, the Humour had also contracted the Joint, that he could not extend his Arm, was cured in a Twelve-month's time.

**I**T pleased God to grant me likewise the same good Success on a Clergyman's Child afflicted in her Eyes, Nose, and Upper Lip, with the *King's Evil*. The Child's Uncle, an eminent Apothecary in this City, hath been so kind as to own her Cure in several publick Places.

**A** Young Lad, Apprentice to Mr. *Coleton*, at a Toy-shop against the *Royal Exchange*, had the *Evil* under one of his Jaws, whom I cured in less than six Weeks. As also Mrs. *Jackson's* Daughter, not far from the *Swan* and *Hoop Tavern*, of many ulcerated Tumours in her Arm; but her Cure was not so speedily accomplished as the former.

**A** Lady in the Country hearing of my Success in curing the *Evil*, brought her only Child to Town for my Advice and Assistance. The Boy had a large scrophulous-Ulcer on the Top of his Right Foot, and the Left Ankle was very much swelled with the same Humour; otherwise of an healthful Constitution. How Matters succeeded in this Case, I refer my self to the Lady's following Letter.

S I R,

**W**ith unspeakable Joy I congratulate you with the good News of my Son's Cure, attained by the Blessing of God, and those Means you prescribed. I forbore writing until the Spring and Fall were over, for fear of a Relapse, which I thank God I have no Reason to suspect. The Child is well, and in extraordinary good Health, and will be in London in a few Weeks to wait on you himself. God Almighty make me thankful, and bless your Endeavours for the Good of others, as he hath done for mine. So I rest your most obliged Friend and Servant.

Sept. 9, 1707.

**A** Young Woman, about 22 Years of Age; Wife to an Officer in the Excise at Kingston upon Thames, had a grievous ulcerated Breast. Some Surgeons said it was the Evil, others that it was a Cancer; nor will I offer to determine the Point. But remembring a Passage in *Brown's Surgery*, that "scrophulous Ulcers often degenerate into Cancers, I told this Woman, if my Specifick Remedy and Regimen of Diet would do her any Service, she should be welcome to my Endeavours, but as for a Cure I could not pretend to assure her of it. Both she and her Husband thankfully accepting of my Offer; my Method she continued two Years, and then became perfectly well; the Truth whereof both Husband and Wife, with several of their Friends, are ready to testify upon Occasion.

**A** Practitioner in Physick, of good Business and Reputation, about 30 Miles distant from London, afflicted with this Distemper about 20 Years in several Parts, took of my Medicines. What Success they had upon him, his own Words in the following Letter will testify.

Rev. SIR,

*I Have defer'd Writing to you, to see if the Happiness which I now enjoy by your Medicines, was like to last. I thank God I have been well and free from any Symptom of the Evil, above these four Months, and therefore will not trouble you for a Supply of your Specifick Remedy until the Spring, when I intend to renew its Application for a Month. The next Month I shall be in London, to pay you my Respects and hearty Acknowledgments for those great Services you have done for me.*

Nov. 3, 1707.

I rest your most obliged  
humble Servant.

**A** Boy about Thirteen Years of Age, the Son of a worthy and learned Gentleman of *Halstead in Essex*, was sorely afflicted with the Evil in both his Eyes, and likewise with several hard Swellings in his Neck. His Father desir'd me to use the same Endeavours for his Child's Cure, as I had done for my self and others, and that should content him. I begun this Boy's Cure in April, 1709: and notwithstanding I met with several severe Repulses in my Applications, yet it pleas'd God at last to enable me to conquer his Distemper, as may be seen by the Account  
D 3. given

given in the following Letter, written by his Father.

Reverend SIR,

I Hope you and your good Lady are well. I should be glad to see you both at Halstead. My Son, (thro' God's Blessing) upon taking your Specifick, seems to be very well; he has no Kernels left in his Neck, his Eyes have not been sore, nor run, nor been gummy for a long time; but his Sight is as good as ever. He has lately taken another Dose of your purging Steel Liqueur: His usual Drink is now common Table Drink, and his Issue runs very well. My Wife would know if she may dry that up. There is wonderful Notice taken in these Parts far and near of what you have done for my Child. A Gentleman, on Friday last, that lives some Miles from me, was asking me about my Child, where you liv'd, how he might speak with you, and what where your Demands. I told him you was a reasonable Man, and did consider Peoples Circumstances. Who it is that wants your Help, I know not, but as for this Gentleman, who enquired of me about you, he is very well acquainted with most Persons of Quality in our Country, so that if you can accord, it may be much for your Advantage. I lent him your Book to read, which did mightily please him. Mr. Morley of our Town gives you a good Word, and you may assure yourself I shall not be wanting to manifest your just Praises and Commendations to all People. My Wife and Son give their Services to you. So praying God to bless your generous Designs for all Mankind, I rest your most humble Servant,

July, 1710.

W. H.  
Mrs.

**M**<sup>RS.</sup> *Lambert's* Child of *Islington*, had very sore Eyes, and Breakings out in her Arms. I cured her in about six Months.

**S***tephen Dupont, August 2, 1709.* a Youth living in *Greenwich*, was very much afflicted with running Sores under each Jaw. I happily cured him in a very short Time, with the inward and outward Application of my *Specifick Remedy*.

**T***homas Queffingborough*, next Door to the *Three Kings* in *Leaden-Hall-street*, a Youth, about 12 Years of Age, had a large glandulous Tumour in his Neck, which by the inward Application of my *Specifick Remedy*, speedily broke, and discharged much filthy Matter, and in a few Month's time healed up with little or no Scar.

**M***Y* only Child, aged 9 Years, being extremely afflicted with the *Evil* in her Eyes, the Sight of both cover'd with thick Films, both Eye-lids swelled that she could not move them upwards, and thought by many to be past Recovery: I apply'd my self, *Sept. 16, 1710.* to *Mr. Vickers* in *Sherburn-lane*, and only by the internal Application of his *Specifick Remedy*, her Eyes in eight Days time were perfectly recovered; and, in all Appearance, she is entirely freed from that grievous Distemper. The Truth whereof may be known at the *Pensterer's Shop*, next Door to *Feathers Court*, near *Great Turn-Stile, Holbourn*.

*March 29, 1711.*

*Tho. Locket.  
May.*




**M**AR, 1709. A Gentleman, who (like many others) was very unwilling it should be known that he had the *Evil*, came to me as for another Person. By his Complexion, I judge he was not himself free from the Distemper which upon telling him my Thoughts he did deny. He had several running Sores on Breast and Shoulders; and so bad, that it seven Months before they were cured by my medicine. I am engag'd to Secrecy as to Name, &c. but I must do him the Justice own he was very generous in his Acknowledgments for the Service I had done him.

S I R,

**N**O longer ago than Wednesday Night last I saw your Patient, Mrs. Elizabeth Gill who not only looks well, but her Eyes [to all Appearance] are as well now as mine, can see to work with her Needle, without any Offence or Trouble to her. She continues the taking of your Medicine with great Pleasure and Satisfaction. We have a Woman in this Town about forty Years of Age, miserably afflicted with the same Distemper from Cradle; if you can do her any Good, let me know the next Post; which will oblige your most affe-  
cted Friend and Servant.

Rector of West-  
Wickham, Cam-  
bridgeshire, De-  
cember 2, 1710.

Allington Han

 This Mrs. *Elizabeth Gillson* had been Blind several Years, with the *Evil* in her Eyes, whose Cure I begun, *Sept. 8, 1710.*

**A** Gentleman's Child was brought to my House, *December 26, 1710.* extremely afflicted with the *King's Evil* in her Arms, Hands and Legs, for the Cure whereof one of the greatest Surgeons in this City had us'd his Endeavour a whole Year; the Child being put into my Hands, she drank of the *Specifick Lignor* for her constant Drink, with a Dose of the *Specifick Powder* once a Day; her Sores were dress'd Morning and Night with the *Specifick Cerecloth.* By the Use of these Means in less than 7 Months the Child became sound and well, and hath continued so ever since. This Cure is very well known to the Reverend Mr. *Edgey*, Vicar of *Wandsworth.*

**T**HE following Account of my Success was sent me by a Divine out of the Country, *May 4, 1711.* Concerning a young Lady, who was my Patient but a few Weeks.

Rev. SIR,

**I** Receiv'd yours, which I sent to the young Lady your Patient, who now, praised be God, is very well recover'd of her Distemper, and hopes she may continue so; but if otherwise, you shall hear the first Post. The Lady gives her Thanks and humble Service to you, and so doth your most obliged humble Servant,

Rector of *Hickling*,  
*Nottinghamshire.*

George Fisher. A

**A** Gentleman living in *Cheapside*, near Church, sent for me to visit his Son, 24, 1711. About 14 Years of Age, the young Man had a sore Head, sore Eyes, and swollen Lips; for the Cure whereof he had been miserably fatigued with the common Methods of *Medicines* and *Surgery*, without any Advantage. This young Man I cured in less than three Months without the least Trouble or Confinement. Truth whereof his Parents will testify to any Person desirous of that Satisfaction.

**M**Rs. *Barret*, living in *Mansel-street*, *Greenwich*, brought her Child to House, June 26, 1711. very sorely afflicted with *Defluxions* in both her Eyes, and with a swollen upper-Lip. I gave the Child some few Drops of the *Specifick Liquor* to mix with Water for constant Drink; and she was cur'd.

**E***Lizabeth Jackson*, in *Haddenham Bucks*, aged about 32 Years, having several glandular Swellings about her Neck, was in a little time cured by me.

**C**olonel *Savary* of *Greenwich*, and Captain *Warkins* of *Debiford*, know of two considerable Cures perform'd by me, on two young Gentlemen of their Acquaintance.

**A** Child between 8 or 9 Years of Age, of a considerable Family in *Nottinghamshire*, afflicted with the *King's Evil* in her Legs and Ancles, to such a Degree, that she was not

to walk ; and besides the Distemper had brought her into a Consumption. *Sept. 1, 1709.* Her Parents sent for me into that Country, and considering the Condition she was in, I told them plainly, I apprehended no Hopes of Success: However, they were willing to try my Method of Cure, which prevail'd beyond my Expectation, as the following Letter from her Mother sheweth, Dated *Sept. 8, 1711.*

S I R,

**T**Our little Patient read your last Letter with great Satisfaction ; the Child, I bless God, is hearty and well, grown very fat, and goes without her Irons and Stick, neither hath she any Sores about her. I had a Mind to have the Opinion of two Physicians, and both conclude, the Child hath not now any Symptoms of the Evil about her. I am truly your Friend and humble Servant,

K. C.

*N. B.* This Child's Cure is very well known to the Reverend Mr. *Brailsford*, Chaplain to her Grace the Dutchess of *New-castle*.

**A** Young Woman of *St. Edmund's Bury*, afflicted with the *Evil* in both Eyes many Years, without any Relief, was by the Application of this *Specifick Remedy* cur'd.

**A** Young Woman, of *Great Harlow* in *Essex*, came to my House, *May 23, 1709.* She had several Ulcers in one of her Arms, and also a consumptive Habit of Body: Her Cure was tedious, but in Twelve Months time it pleas'd God, I did effect it, which is very well known

known to Mr. Bignal, at the *White Lion*, *L*  
*hall-street*.

**M***ary Davage* of *Greenwich*, afflicted w  
*Evil* in both her Eyes, many Years,  
Sight was in a Manner quite dark with  
upon each Eye, was cured in three Weeks  
by taking of this *Specifick Powder* in Small  
The Truth whereof is very well known to  
People in that Place.

**M***Rs. Thomas's Child* in *Northumbe*  
*Alley, Fanchurch-street*, whom I cu  
three Weeks, was blind with the *King's E*

Long-Melford, *May 13,*

REV. SIR,

**I** Receiv'd yours, and should have been very g  
have seen you at Melford; as the Length  
Journey prevents your visiting me, so it do  
waiting upon you at present: I have found  
thing you sent me succeed according to your Pr  
ons, and exceed, tho' not my Hopes, yet m  
pectations; for I could not have thought I  
have receiv'd so much Benefit in so short a tin  
am now (Blessed be God) wholly at Ease, m  
is healed up, and the Swelling abates: I be  
continuing your Drink it will quite wear away  
as before I could not set my Foot upon the Gron  
can now walk pretty well without either Cru  
Staff, but find the Humours attend my Leg st  
it is always more swell'd at Night than in the A  
ing. I hope in a Fortnight's time to be at Colle  
gain, I would have made London my Way t  
and have waited upon you, but that I think 'tis

too far for me at present ; but if I continue in Health, I purpose in my next Return to Melford to come round by London, and pay my thankful Acknowledgments to so good a Benefactor. I had wrote to you sooner, but the continual Pain I was in made Writing and almost every thing else irksome to me. I pray God to prolong your Days, and make you the happy Instrument of prolonging the Days of others, who labour under the same Affliction.

Your humble Servant, F. B.

N. B. When I receiv'd this Letter, the Author had taken the *Specifick Remedy* but 1 Month.

**T**HE Honourable Lady Pyne, recommended a Child to me, about 4 Years old, severely afflicted with the Evil in her Eyes, whom I cured in two Months; the Truth whereof is al o known to the Honourable Lady Ann Montague.

**A** Child was recommended to me very much afflicted with the Evil in her Face, Arms, Hands, and Breast, which I cured in eight Months. The Truth whereof is very well known to Mr. John Aires, at the Sign of the Bell in Pudding-Lane.

**M**Rs. Mundy at the Black Spread-Eagle, in Round Court in the Strand, with a small Quantity of my Medicines, effected a considerable Cure on a Child about 4 Years old.

**A** Young Gentlewoman, about 19 Years of Age, I cured of a *Fistula* in her Left Eye. Also

**A** lso a Gentleman's Daughter, about 6 Years old, living in the broad Place, *Westminster*, much afflicted with the Evil in her *Eyes*, *Nose* and *Lips*.

**A** Youth, a Scholar in Merchant-Taylor's School, had the *Evil* very much in one of his Elbows. An Eminent Divine, Chaplain to her Grace the Dutchess of *New-castle*, desir'd me to cure him if it were possible, which I did in a very short time. The young Man is now at *St. John's College* in *Cambridge*.

**A** Youth at the *Black Boy and Still*, near *Shoreditch Church*, I cured of very weak and sore Eyes. The Truth whereof is very well known to the Reverend Mr. *Price*, School-master of *Stoke-newington*.

**A** Young Gentleman, the Son of a Clergy-man, afflicted with the Evil from his Infancy, in his *Eyes*, *Arms*, *Hands*, and *Feet*, I cured him in 7 Months, to the great Mortification of some who affirm'd him incapable of any Cure.

**A** Daughter of an Eminent Divine, I cured of several glandulous Swellings in her Neck without breaking. Also a Child was recommended to me by the Reverend Mr. *Willy* Lecturer of *St. Christopher's*, having several hard Swellings in her Neck, and a large Ulcer on her *right Coller-bone*, which I cured in a few Months.

**A** Young Lady, about 18 Years of Age, extremely afflicted with sore *Eyes* from her Cradle, with *Sermons Swellings* in her Neck, and likewise with a filthy thick Scurff over her Face, Shoulders and Breasts, whose Disease had always resisted the strongest Efforts of *Diet Drinks, Bleeding, Blisterings, Issues, cold and hot Baths, Mercurial and Antimonial Purges*; was by the habitual Use of this *Specifick* Liquor and Herb Diet, perfectly recover'd, and hath continued free from any Relapse above this 5 Years: The Truth whereof she hath acknowledged to many People; and will not scruple to own it at any time to do me any Service:

**E**lizabeth Bagnal, Aged 64 Years, who in the Year 1688, was in a grievous manner seized with the *King's Evil* in her Arms, Breasts, and Shoulders. She applied her self to me, *Sept.* 11, 1709. considering her Age, and the Extremity of her Condition, I told her, the only Cure she could expect was a *Coffin*; the Woman resented this Answer with much Indignation, and made Complaints of my hard Usage to Mr. Deputy Moor; the Deputy who was my very good Friend, entreated me to help her, alledging, that if I kill'd her, no one would question me about her Death. I gave this old Woman the Medicines, with Directions how to apply them, and in 4 Months she became perfectly well, who will assert the Truth of her Cure every Day, in *Dove Court*, near *Bear-Binder-lane*, leading to *Stocks-Market*.



**A** Child, about 6 Years old, taken lame with a large Tumour in its left Hip, which Swelling had very much emaciated the Leg. Attended also with that Extremity of Pain, that she had no Rest Night nor Day. The inward Application of my Medicines broke the Swelling with a plentiful Discharge of Matter, which in a few Months healed sound and well; and the Child became very healthful in every Respect, excepting the Contraction in her Joint, which I hope in time (the Child being young) to recover.

**A** Young Gentleman, about 18 Years of Age, of a sickly Constitution, troubled with a Cough, and some other Scurvy Symptoms; had a Swelling in the Knee, judged to be the *Evil*; and being the only Son of a considerable Family, I was unwilling to meddle without the Assistance of his Physicians, which was agreed to by his Parents. The young Gentleman drunk of the *Specifick Lignor* two Months, which removed his Cough and those other Symptoms, but broke the Swelling, which was dressed Morning and Night, with the *Specifick Cerecloth*, and in three Months the Ulcer was healed without any remaining Lameness; who is now as healthful a young Gentleman as cometh upon the *Royal Exchange*.

**A** Gentleman living near St. Sepulchre's Church, brought his Daughter to me, having a large moveable Tumour under her right Jaw; her Father was very fearful of its breaking, and there-  
for

fore beg'd of me, if it were possible, to prevent its turning to a *Sore*; I told him, if it might be done with Safety to her future Health, I would endeavour it. Accordingly I order'd her one Dram of my *Specifick Powder* to take Morning, Noon, and Night, in her common Table Drink, by the Use whereof, in a Month's time, her Parents observed a visible Decay of the Swelling; and in 4 Months there was no sign of it left, nor have I heard any Complaints of Relapse, or any other Indisposition attending its Dissolution these 5 Years.

**A**N Apothecary in *Buckinghamshire*, was himself very much troubled with the *Evil* under each Jaw. *October 10, 1708.* he came to my House, with a Resolution to try my Method of Cure; I gave him my Medicines, with Directions how to use them, and so he returned home: Two Months afterwards he sent me Advice that he had good Hopes of Success, desiring me to send him a double Quantity of Remedies the next Return of the Carrier; and being under some Apprehensions that one of his Children was falling into the same Distemper, her *Eyes* (as he said) being often sore, and her upper Lip oftentimes much swelled; accordingly I sent him what he desir'd, with some Intimation to vary the Method of Application to his Child. Four Months afterwards he wrote me a Letter, wherein he gave me an Account that he judged himself perfectly cured, his running Sores being all healed up; and in all other Respects very healthful; and as for his Child, he said her *Eyes* were well also, tho' the swelling of her Lip

was not quite allwaged. I met with his Kingman (a Clerk in the *East India House*) very lately, who told me, that his Cousin my *quondam* Patient continued still very well, and free from any Returns of his old Distemper.

**A** Young Gentlewoman, about 19 Years of Age, much subject to the *King's Evil* in her Neck, whereof she had been cured by a Country Physician, and continued well three or four Years; but afterwards fell ill of a weeping *Fistula* in her Left Eye. I prescribed her a Lotion made with my *Specifick*, mixed with equal Parts of Rose and Plantain Water, to wash her Eye therewith Morning and Night, and several times in the Day; to drink the *Specifick* Liquor for her constant Drink; purging her now and then with an Infusion of *Rhubarb* and *Sene*, by which Method she was in a few Months cured.

**A** Young Man, Apprentice to an Eminent Surgeon, sent me a Letter by a Porter, signifying that he was very much afflicted with the *King's Evil*, and that he would become my Patient, provided I would not discover his Name and Habitation. I assured him faithfully, I never did where I was enjoin'd Secrecy. Upon this Condition he sent for my Medicines, with Directions how to apply them, the Use whereof he continued 8 Months, before his Cure was fully finished; to whom I must acknowledge my self very much obliged for many Services he hath done me upon this Account.

**A** Surgeon's Widow, formerly living in *Brentford*, who for many Years was very much afflicted with the *Evil* in her *Eyes*; for the Cure whereof, her Husband, as she told me, (a very ingenious Man) had used his utmost Endeavours, but to no Purpose. I cured her in three Months.

**H**enry Sprately, a Corporal in Major General *Holmes's* Regiment of Foot-Guards, afflicted with many deep and foul Ulcers on each Side of his Throat, extending from Ear to Ear; accidentally meeting with my Book at the Surgeon's House belonging to his Regiment, in *Charles-street, Westminster*, desired Leave to read it over, which was granted; the Man comes directly to my House, telling me he was persuaded, if I would take him in Hand, that with God's Blessing I could cure him. I bid him first to ask leave of his Surgeon *Mr. Wilson*, and then he should be welcome to my Assistance, which he soon obtain'd. Accordingly I gave him the *Specifick* Liquor for his constant Drink, and Dressings for his Sores, with Instructions how to apply them; the Medicines he fetched from my House as often as his Necessities requir'd. Not hearing of him in 6 Months, I concluded he was dead, (cured beyond Relapse) and therefore the 2d of *Feb. 1713*. I called at his Lodgings, the *Cock and Hoop* in *Chancery-lane*, to enquire after him, where I found the Man in very good Health; his Throat as dry and free from Sores as the back of my Hand; for my part I had never seen a poor Fellow in a worse Condition than this Man was. The Truth whereof any man

inform themselves at the aforesaid Place.

I can truly affirm without the least Imputation of Ostentation, that by the Use of this *Specifick* Liquor, I preserved a Leg of a young Gentleman; living in *Great St. Hellens*, from being cut off; and likewise the Leg of a Female Child, related to an eminent Banker in *Lombard-Street*, from the like Misfortune.

*Several other PERSONS Cur'd by  
Mr. VICKERS, whose Cases are too  
large to be inserted in this small Treatise.*

### *The Evil in the Eyes.*

**A** Young Man afflicted with *sore and weak Eyes* 4 Years. A poor young Woman of Blindness in *both Eyes*, which came by great Defluxions of Rheum. A Boy afflicted with *sore Eyes* 9 Years. A Man troubled with the *Evil* in his *Eyes* 15 Years; another afflicted with violent Rheums, and great Pains in his *Eyes* and Head 7 Years. A young Man, about 19 Years of Age, afflicted with the *Evil* in his *Eyes* 11 Years; another Man with the same Humour in his *Eyes* 8 Years. A young Gentlewoman afflicted with *sore Eyes* 13 Years.

A young Woman, about 19 Years old, afflicted with the *Evil* in her *Eyes* from her Infancy. A Girl of a violent Defluxion of Rheum in both her *Eyes*. A young Gentleman after the *Small Pox*, had such a violent Humour attending *his Eyes*, that his Relations fear'd he would loose *the Sight* of both; whom I cured in 6 Months.

A young Man, who had been subject to the Evil in his Childhood, was seiz'd with a violent Heat and Humour in his Face, Neck and Breast, which by repelling Medicines was driven into his *Eyes*, attended with a great Inflammation and Fluxion: finding the Cause of his Complaint, I immediately order'd two Issues to be made between his Shoulders for a present Revulsion; and obliged him to drink plentifully of the *Specifick Liquor*, and to wash his *Eyes* therewith several times in the Day, by which Method I preserved his Sight, which probably might have been lost in a few Days. *People should be very cautious how they use repelling or dissolving Medicines.* I knew a Woman directly killed, by turning this Humour out of her *Eyes* into her *Stomach*, as if she had been stabb'd. I had nearly lost the Sight of mine by the Use of an *Eye-Water*. And I have always found it true by my own Experience, and likewise by the Testimony of others, that those *Eyes* have always far'd the worst, which have been most tamper'd withal by outward Remedies.

### *The Evil in the Face.*

A Young Man formerly living in *Cornhill*, I cured of several Ulcers, from his Left Ear down to his Right Jaw; also one *Matthew Winter*, much afflicted after the same manner; likewise a young Gentlewoman of several hard Swellings on each side her Neck. One *Mary Dolive* I cur'd of an Ulcer adhering to the right Jaw-bone. A young Man also of several Ulcers under each Jaw. Another was cured by taking this Spe-

*Specifick Drink*, of several Ulcers about his Chin  
 Another of Swellings on the Left Side of his Neck

### *The Evil in the Breast.*

**A** Young Woman had many hard Kernels in one of her Breasts, who by drinking of this *Specifick Liquor* 7 Months, became clear of all her Swellings, and hath continued so above this 3 Years.

### *The Evil in the Arms, Hands and Feet*

**A** Young Woman had a violent Ulcer in one of her Elbows with *Caries*, whereby she had lost the Use of her Joint, whose Cure proved tedious; but at last the Disease was conquer'd, by the habitual Use of this *Specifick Liquor*, &c. I cured a young Man of foul stinking Ulcers, in his Left Arm and Foot. A poor young Fellow, had of these Ulcers in both Elbows, with *Caries*, whom I cured. A young Woman had a Strumous Ulcer on the back of her Left Hand who by only drinking the Liquor, and washing the Sore with the same several times in the Day was perfectly cured. A Man who had several Ulcers in his Foot, with foul Bones, was cured by the same Method as the former. I cured also a young Man of an Ulcer on his Thumb with a carious Bone. I likewise cured one *Thomas Carter*, of a Scrophulous Ulcer between his Thumb and Fore-finger, which came by a Blow given him with a Mallet, as he was working in the Queen's Yard in Deptford. Likewise one T  
D

*Duncombe*, late of *Islington*, of a large Tumour on the Fore-finger of his Right Hand.

A poor young Fellow, *Adams* by Name, had several Ulcers in his Arm, Thigh and Leg, sought my Assistance, and in Compassion to his Necessities, which were very great, (as I have done to several others) I gave him his Cure gratis.

I also cured a Youth of several Ulcers in his Left Arm and Foot, attended with a Heetick Cough and Consumption.

A young Woman, about 19 Years of Age, who had a soft white Swelling above her Right Knee, by the internal Use of this *Specifick* Liquor, and bathing the Swelling therewith twice a Day, was thereby cured; also a large Tumour on the right Hip, attended with Pain and Contraction in a young Man, about 17 Years of Age, was cured by the same Method.

[ Could mention a great many other Persons of Figure and Substance whom I have cur'd, if I were not oblig'd to conceal their Names and Habitations. And I do hereby faithfully promise never to publish any Person's Name or Dwelling, where I am enjoin'd Secrecy. And therefore if these Instances of my Success are not Inducements and Convictions strong enough to encourage People to experience this Method of Cure, it surpasseth my Judgment to find out a Remedy for their *Incredulity*.

*From my House in Sherburn-Lane near the General Post-Office.*

F I N I S.



**BOOKS Written by the Reverend  
Mr. VICKERS.**

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